



Collaborative Oversight of Drinking Water Programs

EPA and state primacy agencies work together to implement SDWA and ensure safe drinking water. The goals for collaborative oversight are to:

- *Support Successful Implementation of SDWA:* EPA will work collaboratively with states to understand the programs and approaches primacy agencies use to meet the objectives of the SDWA to protect public health, to recognize successes and to recommend areas for improvement.
- *Identify Lessons Learned:* Recognize best practices and provide a platform to share information, develop training and provide technical assistance to address challenges.
- *Document Programmatic Integration:* Describe how primacy agencies are integrating aspects of the SDWA framework to help ensure that public water systems provide safe water.
- *Increase Effectiveness of SDWA Implementation:* Generate a deeper understanding of state and EPA roles under the SDWA through a common set of shared goals and vision for providing safe drinking water.

The three elements of collaborative oversight provide complementary approaches:

- *Annual Drinking Water Program Review* provides a management review of the primacy agency,
- *File Review* provides a data audit of the primacy agency files on a less frequent basis, and
- Jointly determined *Subject-Specific Implementation Analysis* seeks to evaluate the national implementation of a specific aspect of the SDWA and share best practices.

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAM REVIEW



The goal of the annual drinking water program review is to provide an annual assessment of the core program elements of the SDWA. The EPA Regions

will be responsible for developing this report with the objective of providing a narrative on how the primacy agencies are achieving their programmatic targets and goals.

EPA will use existing reports and metrics to generate this management level summary of the primacy program. This review will document how the primacy agency integrates the SDWA framework (DWSRF, Cap Dev, Op Cert and PWSS) along with discussing the state's approach to enforcement and data management.

This review will complement existing oversight processes the regions are currently implementing and help document on an annual level oversight at a national level and areas for state and EPA improvement.

FILE REVIEW



The goal of the ongoing file review effort is to audit a primacy agency's data record. Specifically, the file review seeks to determine if the primacy agency is collecting the data

necessary to make appropriate compliance determinations for federal and/or state drinking water regulations. The associated data must also be accurately reported to SDWIS/FED.

EPA will continue work to streamline the file review process by identifying best practices and tools to conduct a file review (e.g., report templates; improved assessment forms); and explore how to use the results from file reviews to target training and other technical assistance.

EPA will work with the states to identify areas of effective implementation as well as opportunities to address the root cause of the most common deficiencies through tailored training and technical assistance.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION ANALYSIS

The goal of this joint subject-specific implementation analysis is to identify challenges in implementation of a specific regulation and to share best practices to enhance national implementation of SDWA.



EPA wants to ensure that this effort identifies opportunities for improving SDWA implementation similar to the benefit from the recent Lead and Copper Rule review, but without the rushed deadlines. With this understanding, EPA and the states will work together to develop and provide targeted training and technical assistance to enhance the effectiveness of SDWA programs.

This national effort will be strategic in scope, would be conducted as a joint effort between EPA and the states, and will serve to enhance EPA/state collaboration. The effort will be organized by HQ with a Regional lead working with the states. EPA will work with the states to select areas for analysis. Potential topics could include: sanitary surveys, DBPR and consecutive systems, or Phase II/V waivers.



For more information, contact your Regional Coordinator.